

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	El Salvador
Program Title:	Democratic Consolidation and Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	519-002
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$4,469,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$5,469,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1997
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2005

Summary: USAID's program to strengthen democratic processes and good governance aims to promote increased access to justice and improved court case preparation; strengthen local governments to provide basic public services; increase open access to legislative processes; and encourage active civil society advocacy through small grants.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Access to justice and court case preparation (\$1,600,000 DA). The justice sector, which has been working under new criminal codes, will continue to be a principal area of focus. USAID will fund training in evidence collection and management, plea bargaining, case preparation, use of oral arguments, and other aspects of the new criminal codes for several hundred judges, prosecutors and public defenders to assist them in effectively and fairly applying the new system. USAID-financed technical assistance and training will support development of modern rules of evidence and review legislation and regulations related to trade and the commercial sector. Working with selected law schools, USAID will help educate and train faculty in practical legal teaching techniques, promote curriculum reforms, and develop and manage legal clinics as educational learning tools. To further increase access to justice, USAID will help establish at least two additional community-based mediation centers and widely disseminate information on the use of alternative dispute resolution. The principal contractor is DPK Consulting. The Department of State implements activities through an inter-agency agreement.

Local government (\$1,769,000 DA). USAID will fund technical assistance to approximately 25 municipalities to improve their financial and human resource administration accountability. Assistance will also increase local governments' efficiency and coverage of selected public services, such as water and solid waste management. Municipalities will receive assistance in designing, with citizen participation, medium-term community development plans. Policy-related activities will help clarify municipal roles and responsibilities regarding additional public services that may be decentralized, such as education and road maintenance. Principal contractors and grantees are Research Triangle Institute and the Salvadoran National Mayors Association.

Citizen participation in legislative process, civil society advocacy, and transparency (\$1,100,000 DA). USAID will fund training for selected civil society organizations to strengthen their internal administrative and financial management systems. Assistance will be provided in tandem with six to eight small grants to support specific advocacy and oversight activities that further democratic principles. Assistance to the legislature will help further open up its decision-making processes to public input through more frequent public hearings, a legislative hotline, and constituent outreach offices located outside the capital. Technical assistance will help the Government of El Salvador implement a code of ethics for government employees. An additional \$1 million, included in S.O. 598-021 in the FY 2003 CBJ, will be dedicated to this activity. Principal contractors are Creative Associates Inc. (prime) for civil society and transparency activities and the University of Texas (sub) for legislative activities. Grants to civil society organizations will be determined through competition.

FY 2004 Program:

Access to justice and court case preparation (\$1,600,000 DA). To assure fairer and more equitable treatment of evidence in the courts, USAID plans to continue training activities for key justice sector institutions in criminal code implementation and appropriate use of rules of evidence. USAID also intends to continue training and technical assistance to implement curriculum and teaching reforms in selected law schools. USAID plans to establish additional community-based mediation centers and is considering support for legal reforms and training related to trade and commercial code legislation.

Local government (\$1,769,000 DA). Up to 25 municipalities will benefit from technical assistance and training to further improve provision of basic municipal services and increase transparency and accountability in municipal management and planning. USAID is also planning to support activities that promote greater citizen participation in local government oversight committees.

Citizen participation in legislative process, civil society advocacy, and transparency (\$2,100,000 DA). USAID expects to continue limited civil society grants for advocacy and oversight initiatives and complementary training. Should the legislature commit to open additional constituent outreach centers, USAID will consider supporting this effort. USAID is planning to support technical assistance activities that would strengthen the office of government ethics, as well as training related to government ethics and transparency within GOES ministries.

Performance and Results: USAID has helped El Salvador improve citizen access to the justice system. Use of the justice system, expressed by the number of court cases filed in USAID target areas, increased 18% over the past year (from 15,238 cases in FY 2001 to 17,990 cases in FY 2002). The two community-based mediation centers established in 2002 have received 1,870 cases. The centers are proving to be valid, accessible alternatives for helping people resolve their problems without having to go to court. The first modern legal education clinic, launched at one of the country's largest law schools, is providing practical opportunities for law students to work on real cases and gain first-hand knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of each justice sector institution. USAID support for the community policing initiative has helped police reduce crime and violence rates in many municipalities. In 2002, overall crime dropped almost 18% from the previous year. USAID helped six legislative committees hold a total of 28 public hearings and 8,690 citizens visited their constituent outreach offices. These results demonstrate an increased openness to listening to citizen concerns. An eight percent increase in local revenue generation by USAID-assisted communities shows evidence that municipal government credibility is growing. These municipalities also increased their solid waste collection and disposal services by almost 20%.

By the end of the strategy period, USAID expects that El Salvador will have built a more credible criminal justice system and more transparent local level public administration services. USAID expects that citizens will have increased confidence in the criminal justice system and participate more actively in policy discussions. Legislative decision-making is expected to become increasingly transparent. The community policing model will be working nationwide and assisting in reducing crime and violence.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

El Salvador

519-002 Democratic Consolidation and Governance	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2001		
Obligations	24,976	16,632
Expenditures	17,725	13,452
Unliquidated	7,251	3,180
Fiscal Year 2002		
Obligations	3,225	200
Expenditures	4,484	1,757
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	28,201	16,832
Expenditures	22,209	15,209
Unliquidated	5,992	1,623
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA		
Obligations	4,000	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	4,000	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	5,469	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	37,670	16,832